

PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

Twenty-third Annual Session

—OF THE—

Sulphur Springs Baptist Association.

—HELD WITH—

HARMONY CHURCH,

Blount County, Sept. 20, 21, 22, 1895.

OFFICERS:

W. R. FULMER, Moderator, Sloan, Ala
J. M. JAMES, Clerk, Arkadelphia, "
FRANK McNEAL, Cor. Sec. and Treas. Sloan, "

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

S. T. GRIFFITH, Sloan, Ala.
E. M. ROBINSON, Arkadelphia,
I. C. McCrARY, Partridge, "
ROBERT GRUBBS, Sloan, "
W. R. MARTIN, Blount Springs, "

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Montgomery, Ala.:
ALABAMA BAPTIST,
1895.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. The Moderator calls to order, and hear the Introductory.
2. Call for letters from the churches.
3. Appoint reading clerk to read letters.
4. Elect officers for the year.
5. Call for new churches.
6. Invite visiting brethren to seats.
7. Invite correspondents.
8. Return Correspondents.
9. Appoint special committees.
10. Call for report of Executive Board.
11. Call for report of standing committees.
12. Appoint standing committees.
13. Appoint time and place for next meeting.
14. Appoint ministers to preach annual sermons.
15. Offer thanks, and other miscellany.

MINUTES.

The Twenty-third Annual Session of the Sulphur Springs Baptist Association was held with Harmony church, Blount County, Alabama, September 20th, 21st and 22d, 1895, and was called to order by Eld. W. J. McCrary, the former Moderator.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by Bro. G. S. Sloan from 1 John 1:7.

Adjourned one hour for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION—FRIDAY, 1:15 P. M.

The Moderator called for the letters from the churches. Letters were presented from the following named churches with lists of delegates, to-wit: Harmony, Mt. Zion, Good Hope, Mt. Hope, New Antioch, Cane Creek, Mt. High, Sardis, Arkadelphia, Mt. Joy, Oak Bower, Union J. C., and Sulphur Springs.

On motion, W. R. Martin and J. H. McNeal were appointed as Reading Clerks.

On motion, the body tabled the letter from Good Hope church.

Proceeded to elect officers, which resulted in the choice of Eld. W. R. Fulmer, Moderator; J. M. James, Clerk, and Frank McNeal, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary.

The Moderator took the chair and called for letters from new churches. Petitionary letters were presented from Fairview and from New Hope, which were received into the body.

The Moderator invited all visitors of our faith and order, and also called for correspondents.

On motion, the body received all visitors as correspondents.

On motion, renewed the former mode of correspondence, making any of our body who may visit any other Association a correspondent to such Association.

The following committees were appointed:

On Devotion—E. M. Robinson, S. T. Griffith.

On Missions—J. C. Thomas, I. C. McCrary and G. S. Sloan.

On Temperance—J. M. Abbott, Robert Grubbs.

On Documents—Dr. J. W. Abbott, J. M. Sandlin.

On Education—D. L. James, Dr. Roberts.

On Sabbath Schools—J. C. Thomas, I. C. McCrary, G. S. Sloan.

On Supernannuated Ministers—F. M. Leath, J. R. Jefferson.

On Finance—J. H. McNeal, W. E. Dollar.

Homes were offered to all the delegates by a committee appointed by Harmony church.

Adjourned till 9 a. m. Saturday.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21ST—MORNING SESSION.

D. L. James led in prayer.

Invitations were renewed for correspondents and other letters from churches.

Reports from committees were called for. The Executive Board was allowed more time to report.

Report on Education was read and adopted.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Your Committee on Education report as follows: We find that the people all over the South, as well as in the bounds of our Association, are awakening to the importance of a higher education, both church and state. We deem it highly important that we educate our children, both morally, mentally and physically. We think that the present age demands a higher education for our ministry, as well as in all other professions. Therefore, we would recommend and advise that our people exercise a greater interest on this subject. We would recommend Howard College for males and the Judson for females; also Blount College, or any other good school that is convenient.

D. L. JAMES, Chairman.

The report on Documents was read and received for discussion, and after several little talks from the brethren, was adopted.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS.

Your committee finds several churches in a prosperous condition, especially New Antioch, which has been working aggressively, having had added to her number thirty-one members. We earnestly recommend all sister churches to be aggressive, faithful co-laborers with God. Dear brethren, we regret to find a complaint against Good Hope church, which we believe this body should investigate, and pray for a satisfactory solution.

J. W. ABBOTT, Chairman.

On motion, the Moderator appointed a committee of five to investigate the trouble and report at 4 o'clock this evening, to-wit: E. M. Robinson, J. W. Abbott, F. M. Leath, J. C. Thomas and J. M. C. Whorton.

On motion, a few minutes were taken for recreation, after which the delegates met in the school house and resumed business. The call for other churches was renewed, and a letter was received from Union church B. C. with a list of delegates.

The report from the Executive Board and Missionary was received and adopted:

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Your committee, after considering the mission work in our bounds, decided to employ our brother, G. S. Sloan, to travel and preach in the community of Rock Spring, and agreed to pay him the pledges and money in the hands of the Treasurer, amounting to about \$24, his services commencing in April, 1895, and holding monthly meetings, and to run a few days' protracted meeting before the meeting of the Association.

S. T. GRIFFITH, Chairman.

MISSIONARY'S REPORT.

DEAR BRETHREN—As evangelist for Sulphur Springs Association, I commenced my work at Rock Springs on the third Sunday in April last. Preached once a month until the third Sunday in August, then conducted a meeting of days; also Friday before the third Sunday in September organized a Baptist church at Democrat, and run another three days' meeting. This church has been received into your body. Preached 18 sermons and traveled 100 miles. Brethren, as your evangelist, I find the harvest truly is great and the laborers are few. Let us pray the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into his vineyard. Let us resolve to center on one point each year and try to cultivate and hold the same.

G. S. SLOAN, Missionary.

The report on Missions was received for discussion, and on motion it was adopted as amended.

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

There seems to have been some work done along the line of missions. Our missionary has been laboring faithfully for some time past, and other brethren have been working up the destitution. So the good work goes on, and we rejoice and will rejoice. Brethren, give us of your means and we hope to do more.

J. C. THOMAS, Chairman.

AMENDMENT.

Resolved, That we ask and expect five cents from each member of this Association next year.

Received report on Sabbath Schools, and on motion it was laid on the table until Sunday morning at 8:30 a. m. for discussion.

Received report on Temperance for discussion and laid it on the table until after dinner.

Received report on Finance, and on motion it was adopted.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

We find \$19.45 has been sent up for the purpose of having the associational minutes printed.

J. H. MCNEAL, Chairman.

Adjourned one hour for dinner.

SATURDAY—1:30 P. M.

The delegates met in the school house, and after singing a suitable hymn, the body was called to order and proceeded to business.

After excusing several brethren to go home, the report on Temperance was taken up, discussed and adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

Your committee find in many states and sections of our free government the temperance cause is prospering and progressing. When the people abstain from the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, the churches prosper and rejoice. We are assured from our own experience and from reports that the use of intoxicating drinks causes more trouble than everything else we have to contend with. We should urge all lawful means to suppress the use of it in every circle in which we enter. We urge that the churches carry out the discipline on this line.

J. M. ABBOTT, Chairman.

Heard the report of the committee appointed to investigate the grievances committed by Good Hope church, and on motion, received and adopted their report.

REPORT OF INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

We, your committee, have investigated the grievances against Good Hope church, and believe her to be in disorder, and do not believe it would be wise of this body to seat the delegation from her.

E. M. ROBINSON, Chairman.

Received and adopted the report on Superannuated Ministers.

REPORT ON SUPERANNUATED MINISTERS.

Your committee report that we find in our bounds that our Eld. Brother C. A. Burns is in a very low state of health, and asks this body to assist him, as he is in indigent circumstances. We believe it to be our duty to do so.

F. M. LEATH, Chairman.

On motion, appointed the time and place of our next meeting, to be held with the Arkadelphia Baptist church on Friday before the second Sunday in October, 1896. This church is situated at Arkadelphia, Blount County, Alabama, about twelve miles west of Blount Springs.

On motion, appointed J. C. Thomas to preach the Introductory, and Dr. H. B. Martin, alternate.

On motion, appointed G. S. Sloan to preach the Missionary sermon; T. D. Holcomb, alternate.

On motion, the body tendered their vote of thanks to Harmony church and neighbors for their kind hospitalities while it had its stay with them.

On motion, the First District of the Association was permitted to appoint their next meeting to be held with Harmony church, commencing on Friday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1896. Adjourned to meet Sunday morning.

The Second District will meet according to their own appointment on Friday before the fifth Sunday in March, 1896.

Brother H. B. Martin to preach the Introductory, and J. R. Jefferson, alternate.

SUNDAY MORNING—9 A. M.

The delegates and people met in the church house according to appointment, and were called to order by Dr. J. W. Abbott.

Prayer was led by Brother John W. Dean.

On motion, appointed Brother J. W. Abbott Moderator pro tem and J. R. Jefferson Clerk pro tem.

The Report on Sabbath Schools was called for. Discussion opened by Brother J. C. Thomas, followed by Brothers Leroy Williams, Dock McCrary, J. R. Jefferson, G. S. Sloan and others.

The report was adopted.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

It seems from reading the letters from the different churches that they are not interested in teaching God's word to their children and their neighbors' children as God has commanded. We would recommend that pastors urge upon their churches the great necessity of evergreen Sabbath Schools. It makes better churches, better communities and better preachers, and also better prepares the christian for the warfare in which we are engaged. May God help us to do more in this direction in the future than in the past.

I. C. McCrary, Chairman.

Adjourned to meet as before stated.

W. R. FULMER, MODERATOR.

J. M. JAMES, Secretary.

DEVOTIONAL.

Preaching Friday night 7 p. m. by Brethren Dickinson and D. L. James.

Preaching at 11 o'clock in the church by Brother Dock McCrary, followed by Brother J. R. Jefferson.

Preaching at 2:30 p. m. by Bro. Dickinson.

Preaching at 7 p. m. Saturday by Brother J. C. Thomas, and the stand in the church house was occupied at 11 a. m. Sunday by Elder W. J. McCrary, and at the school house by Brother Dickinson and Elder Leroy Williams. Both houses were well filled. After preaching, collections were taken up as follows: For Brother Burns \$4.50; for Missions \$1.44; for Minutes \$1.75.

LIST OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES.

Mount Hope—J. B. York, J. M. Whorton; H. H. Buzbee, jr., and S. H. Gresham, alternate.

Mount Zion—W. J. McCrary, W. A. Mayfield, G. S. Sloan and R. Grubbs.

Good Hope—J. B. Hughes, W. P. Hulsey, J. W. Trotter, G. T. Hughes and J. M. Lawler.

Harmony—W. R. Fulmer, J. H. McNeal, R. Cox, S. T. Griffith; J. M. C. Whorton, alternate.

Mount Joy—J. M. Abbott, W. E. Dollar, T. D. Holcomb, A. B. Abercrombie; A. M. Justice alternate.

Sardis—W. E. Spradling, J. A. Thomas, J. W. James and W. D. Key.

Sulphur Spring—J. C. Thomas, J. M. Sandlin, D. L. James, A. C. Fulmer, Willie Sandlin.

Mt. High—M. M. Russell, G. O. Ship, E. H. Bradford.

Oak Bower—H. H. Buzbee, sr., J. W. Stewart, G. F. Ray.

Arkadelphia—J. W. Dean, J. B. Roberson, J. M. James, E. M. Robinson.

New Antioch—J. W. Abbott, F. M. Leath, E. A. Meakson; W. D. Parker, alternate.

Union J. C.—W. R. Speakman, J. M. Carroll, E. C. Rowe and I. J. McCrary.

New Hope—E. Duckett, J. B. Murray, W. A. McAlpin; J. W. Watson, alternate.

Cane Creek—Martin Roberts, J. F. Hill, R. T. Campbell, J. W. Bairrow.

Fairview—M. M. Phillips, T. J. Boyd, H. B. Gravlee; Jesse Stevens alternate.

Union B. C—Charles Hearn, W. M. Keith, John Motes, John Keith.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POST OFFICES.

C. A. Burns	Bangor,
I. Percell	Morris.
T. D. Holcomb	Bangor.
J. C. Thomas	Willow.
W. R. Fulmer	Sloan.
G. S. Sloan	Sloan.
J. R. Jefferson	Gravelton.
D. L. James	Blount Springs.
W. J. McCrary	Partridge.
M. M. Russell	Willow.

CONSTITUTION OF THE SULPHUR SPRINGS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

1. This body shall be known as the Sulphur Springs Missionary Baptist Association.

2. It shall be formed of delegates from all the churches who may connect themselves with the union.

3. Any church may be admitted into this Association by the general consent of the members present, at any regular meeting.

4. Any church may withdraw from it at its own discretion, on application for dismission.

5. Any church in this Association may send three delegates. When a church has fifty members it may send four delegates, and an additional delegate for each fifty members thereafter.

6. At each session of this Association, a Moderator, Recording and Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, shall be elected by ballot from among the members, who shall hold their offices till their successors are elected.

7. The meeting of the delegates shall be held annually as the body may appoint.

8. The design of this body is to promote the cause of true religion with the several churches of which it is, or may be composed, by domestic missions, the education of pious and promising young men called of God to the ministry, and by other benevolent plans, so far as the church may enable them by other voluntary contributions.

9. In addition to the objects specified in the foregoing article, this Association will extend its favorable regard to all the benevolent plans now cherished and supported by evangelical Christians.

10. As it respects the internal concerns of the churches, this body shall have no authority, but shall be considered merely as an advisory council.

11. This Association shall be the judge of her own members, and will not hold as a member a church who holds as a member any person who teaches heterodox, traffics in any way with intoxicating liquors (except physicians), or is guilty of any other crime mentioned in 5th chapter of Galatians as works of the flesh.

12. As it respects our internal or general concerns, and for the mutual benefit of the churches composing this union, it shall be the duty of each church to forward with her delegates a written communication to each annual meeting of this Association, specifying the names of delegates and the state of their churches.

13. Any church being thoroughly convinced that she has a member called of God to the work of the ministry, and believes it her duty to send him out to preach the gospel shall call a Presbytery of ministers, who in connection with, and in presence of the church, proceed to examine the candidate, and if deemed qualified, may ordain him to the full work of the ministry, and report the same to this Association, together with all licensed ministers, so their names may be entered upon the minutes.

14. All Presbyteries in ordaining ministers, deacons, or in constituting churches, shall be governed by the Abstract of Faith adopted by this Association.

15. The business of this Association is to be committed to a board of five members, three of whom shall constitute a quorum to transact business, and to make reports at the next session of the Association, and to be appointed annually by the body while in session.

16. The delegates from the churches shall be considered as holding

their appointments until others are appointed to succeed them.

17. This constitution may be altered or amended at any regular meeting of the body by a two-thirds vote, provided, the proposed change be in writing on the table twelve hours before the vote is taken.

ABSTRACT OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in one only true and living God, the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

ART. 2. We believe that the Scriptures comprising the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

ART. 3. We believe in the doctrine of election, and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy.

ART. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

ART. 5. We believe in man's incapacity by his own free will and ability to recover himself from the fallen state in which he is by nature.

ART. 6. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God by the imputed righteousness of Christ only.

ART. 7. We believe the blessings of salvation are made free to all the human family by the gospel, that it is the duty of all intelligent persons to accept them with a cordial, persistent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his or her refusal or voluntary rejection of the gospel requirements, repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, which rejection involves them into condemnation without defense or excuse.

ART. 8. We believe the saint will persevere in grace and never finally fall away.

ART. 9. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only subjects of baptism, and that immersion is the Apostolic mode.

ART. 10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and the final judgment, that the felicity of the righteous will be everlasting and the punishment of the wicked eternal.

ART. 11. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances of the gospel except one who is regularly baptized, called and come under the imposition of hands by the Presbytery.

ART. 12. We believe that none but regularly immersed believers have a right to commune at the Lord's table.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. This Association shall be opened and closed by singing and prayer.

2. To expedite business, committees may be appointed at the discretion of the body.

3. The Moderator shall be deemed judge of good order, and shall have a right to call to order at any time, and any brother not satisfied with his decision on any point of order, may appeal to the body on the same day, but no other time.

4. Every motion, made and seconded, shall come under consideration of the Association except withdrawn by him who made it.

5. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

6. Every one who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject or use words of personal reflection.

7. The Moderator, when addressed for leave to speak, shall signify the right of the applicant by naming him or otherwise.

8. No person shall speak more than once on the same subject without leave of the body.

9. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which tends to interrupt public speaking.

10. Any member wishing to retire shall obtain permission from the Moderator.

11. The Moderator shall give the casting vote, and be entitled to the privileges of speaking, as any other, providing he appoint another in his seat during the time.

12. The appellation Brother, shall be used in our address, one to another.

13. The names of delegates shall be called as often as the Association may direct.

14. Any delegate leaving before the adjournment without leave will be marked on the minutes as absent.

15. Any member violating the above rules may be reprov'd as the body may think proper, only on the day the offense shall have occurred.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF SULPHUR SPRINGS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

CHURCHES.	Minutes.	Sunday School Expenses.	Pastor's Salary.	Value of Building and Furniture.
Arkadelphia	\$ 2 00	\$ 8 00	\$35 00	\$ 450 00
Cane Creek	80			450 00
Harmony	2 00		25 00	500 00
Fairview	55			
Good Hope	60			400 00
Mount Hope	1 50			200 00
Mount Joy	1 50			400 00
Mount Zion	1 50			
Mount High	65			
New Antioch	1 25			200 00
New Prospect				200 00
Oak Bower	50			300 00
Pleasant Valley				300 00
Sulphur Spring	2 00			400 00
Sardis	1 35			
Union J. C.	1 50			400 00
Union B. C.	85			500 00
New Hope	1 00			200 00
Total	\$19 45	\$ 8 00	\$60 00	\$400 00

STATISTICS OF SULPHUR SPRINGS BAPTIST ASSOCIATION—1895.

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P. O.	Membership last Reported.	Increase by			Decrease by			Present Membership.	Sunday S. Officers and Teachers.	Sunday S. Pupils.	Preaching Sabbaths.
						Baptism.	Letter.	Restoration.	Letter.	Exclusion.	Death.				
*Arkadelphia	Blount	Leroy Williams	J. M. James	Arkadelphia	70	4	6	1	1	218	2	55	3d		
Cane Creek	Jefferson	W. J. McCrary	J. F. Creal	Warrior	92	11	3	1	14	1	1	18	3d		
†Fairview	Walker		H. B. Gravtee	Democrat	85	5	3		10	1	1	18			
Harmony	Blount	T. D. Holcomb	J. D. Griffith	Sloan	81	8			20	3	3	47			
Good Hope	Jefferson		W. P. Hulsey	Robin's X Roads	39	8						56			
Mount Hope	Walker	Leroy Williams	J. M. Whorton	Arkadelphia	46	6	4	1	2	1	1	53			
Mount Joy	Blount	T. D. Holcomb	J. W. Abbott	Garrison's Point	51	3						56			
Mount Zion	Jefferson	W. J. McCrary	W. A. Mayfield	Partridge	51	3			1	1		39			
Mount High	Blount	Daniels	J. R. Russell	Warrior	38	14	16	1				30	3d		
New Hope	"	J. C. Thomas	E. Duckett	Blount Springs	6	17	14					37			
New Antioch	Cullman	J. H. Harbison	J. M. Abbott	Garrison's Point	24							24			
New Prospect	Blount	J. C. Thomas	J. B. Carney	Brenan	22							22			
Oak Bower	"	H. B. Martin	J. W. Stewart	Arkadelphia	109	6	9	1	7	2	1	123			
Pleasant Valley	"		E. Dean	Arkadelphia	23							23			
Sulphur Springs	Jefferson	W. J. McCrary	J. M. Sandlin	Blount Springs	109	6	9					123	4th		
Sardis	"	W. J. McCrary	J. R. Spradling	Morris	48		1		7	2	1	36	4th		
Union J. C.	"	G. S. Sloan	W. R. Speakman	Partridge	86		2			4	1	83	1st		
Union B. C.	Blount	Wm. Absure	A. S. Young	Bangor	44				6			38			
Total					745	76	63	3	62	15	18	9	55	6	55

*Sunday School Superintendent's Name and Postoffice—G. W. Abbott, Arkadelphia, Ala. 864

†Name of Church Organized During Year—Fairview.

18

$$\begin{array}{r} 915- \\ 864 \\ \hline 51 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 74 \\ 69 \\ \hline 1 \\ 864 \\ 13 \\ \hline 877 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 95- \\ 72 \\ \hline 23 \\ 915- \\ 448 \\ \hline 867 \end{array}$$

38

$$\begin{array}{r} 62 \\ 15- \\ 18 \\ \hline 104 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 76 \\ 63 \\ \hline 139 \\ 142 \\ \hline 104 \\ 38 \end{array}$$

913-

